New Rose samples included – Of course in Col. The first a grain is full "

"No 3 is a grass unknown to me – I can find no figure of it – What is its name? "

West Point N. Y.
May 4. 1854

Dear Prof.

I took it for granted that you would know I was thankful for the last specimens of grasses you kindly sent – still I will thank you for them now if it is not too late – You will see in the last number of Silliman that I have despatched Sir David Brewsters assertion about the polarizing of the ultimate fibre briefly – but I am sure effectually.

There is a good friend of mine, a really excellent man, Major Kendrick of the Army who has been stationed in the Navaho country N. Mexico several years, and who is much interested in the natural products of that region – He sent me the enclosed fragments of grasses, with the accompanying queries which I cannot answer, but I presume you can – If not too much trouble you would greatly oblige him and me by a few words in reply to his questions – His attempt to introduce the Jerusalem Artichoke among the Navahoes as an esculent which would grow in spite of them, is amusing, After praying largely for the transportation of a lot of the artichokes packed in sand from St Louis, he had the

the pleasure of finding when he received them that they were — pickled!

Any news from that good fellow Harvey?—

Yours truly

J. W. Bailey

Queries by Major Rendrock

"No 1 is what the Mexicans call "Sheep grama" Sheep are fond of it at all seasons — horses and cattle do not eat it well cure when being well cured it is fed in the absence of horse grama. The sheep grama grows in most luxuriance in the southern half of the Territory.

The Horse grama grows best in the southern half it does not grow in the Navajoe country — Horse and cattle are very fond of it at all seasons — It is I guess the same that Cooke speaks of as being found in Chihuahua &c. When it looks quite dry in the winter, the interior is still green. This is the best of all the Mexican grasses. The specimens I send are so much broken as to be worthless — Engelmann in Emory seems to differ from Lindley (p 113 L) Grama is a word unknown in N. Mexico. Is the specimen sent Chondrosium Fenecum?

No 2 Very much resembles the wild oat of California — It was hardly seen in the Navajo country 4 years ago — It is rapidly spreading. Can this be owing to birds driven from Cal.

Is it the wild oat?— It has no more seed